it fit for cart traffic. It was 6 miles in length had been opened by the people of the locality and without any large expenditure it could be rendered useful for cart traffic, if the department would take it up.

Lastly, the Member referred to the dangerous condition of the bridge at the 2nd mile stone of the Neyyattinkara-Puvar road and requested that the repairs to them might be taken up at an early date.

Dewan's reply.—As regards the traces and the other P. W. D. works referred to by the Member, the P. W. D. admit the necessity for works of this kind, but say that they can only be taken up as far as funds permit in the order of urgency. What I wish to explain to you in this connection is that we are finding that the P. W. D. works in general have become much more costly than before and that the maintenance of these works has also become much more expensive. Consequently, many necessary works remain unexecuted. I think that the time has come for private enterprise to step in and assist Government in these matters. In regard to works which do not require much professional skill, such as the opening of new traces or maintaining existing traces or doing small repairs to them, Government and the Chief Engineer would be very willing to hand over such works to local agencies. Government and the Chief Engineer would confine themselves to seeing that these works are executed and maintained at a certain standard of efficiency. If people would undertake these works, they could do them much more efficiently, quickly and cheaply. As I was saying in my opening speech, a certain Sangham in Tiruvalla has constructed roads for about fifty miles. The people have come forward and given lands for opening new roads and offered to maintain old ones. What is wanted is more and more of that sort of co-operation from the people. I am glad to hear that in your taluk also people have come forward with such help. The P. W. D. will confine themselves to bridges and otherworks requiring professional skill.

59. Needs of the Trivandrum Taluk re: irrigation and communication.

Mr. V. Atchutha Menon B. A. (Member, Trivandrum Taluk) first dealt briefly with the irrigation system in the Trivandrum taluk, and said that the irrigation works had all been neglected by Government. He then represented the needs of the pakuthies which formed his constituency.

(1) In that portion of the Kiliyar river running through the taluk there were seven dams constructed with supply channels for taking water for purposes of cultivation. Of those dams two only, *viz.*, Maruthankuzhi and Pangode, were in sound condition, the remaining five *viz.*, Murukoli, Kaduvetti, Parachira, Puthenkotta and Ayranimuttam had either disappeared or were in a hopeless condition of disrepair. Consequently, cultivation suffered in the areas served by the dams, because the supply channels from those dams were in a much neglected condition and had become completely silted up. In certain places there was so much of encroachment that no trace of the channels existed. It was highly necessary, in the opinion of the Member, that the dams with the distributary channels should be restored to their original condition. The question of drainage was equally important as the paddy lands east of the Trivandrum Town were submerged under water during the floods.

(2) The second item mentioned by the Member was the Anathazhum *chira* in Andoorkonam. It was situated near the Pallippuram camp shed. There was a feeder channel from that *chira* which irrigated about 240 acres of land. But with the lapse of years the channel had become disused and the *chira* had also been encroached upon and silted up. The inlet channel had also been silted up thus making the *chira* completely useless. The *chira* and the channel should be repaired and put into thorough order, so that the paddy lands in the vicinity might be benefited.

(3) There was a river by the name Vettiyar running through Kazhakkuttam, Kulathur and other places and emptying itself into the Veli lake. If dams and sluices were constructed in the existing supply channels, water could be used to irrigate a large area of paddy lands.

(4) The Aurayathu thodu was a watercourse running through Valiazhuthura, Madathuvilagam, Vanchiyur, &c., near Kannanmula and emptying itself into

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the Veli lake. The water in the canal was greatly in demand for paddy cultivation and mud banks used to be put up by the ryots to raise the level of the water and use it for irrigating their lands. Here also there were a few channels for taking the water but they too required substantial repairs. The provision of a few sluices would be highly useful to the ryots.

(5) The Pangappara *thodu* which ran through Valiazhathura, Pangappara and Attipara joined the Vettiyar at Attipara. It could also be tapped for irrigational purposes.

(6) The Veli lake had a bar which, if opened during the rainy season at the proper time, was sufficient protection to a large area of paddy lands. But during the monsoon the lake was generally flooded on account of the various drainage channels emptying themselves into the lake. This flooding was a source of damage to paddy cultivation. It was, therefore, requested that efficient and timely arrangements be made for keeping the Veli bar open during flood time.

(7) There was again another canal which took its source somewhere in the south-east of Vallakkadavu and ran parallel to the newly cut canal in which the Sri Mulapuram lock was situated. A good portion of the canal was encroached upon and hence the water course had become very narrow. If those encroachments were removed and the canal widened, it would be very useful to convey water to several thirsty paddy lands. Another purpose that would be served was that the filthy water and washings of the Thekkanankara *thodu* inside the Fort would more easily find their way to Tiruvallam. If a dam also could be constructed at its mouth in Tiruvallam, the cultivators would find the water very useful to irrigate their paddy lands.

(8) The water collecting in the road to the east of the Public Gardens was doing damage to the *ela* at Edappizhinji. Some remedy must be found for removing that evil.

(9) The well known Kuriathu *Ela* to the south east of Chalai became flooded during the rains and so the paddy lands seriously suffered. It was highly necessary to drain off the surplus water with a view to benefit the paddy cultivation there.

(10) The town had a large number of irrigation tanks most of which had been rendered useless on account of long-standing neglect. They fell under both the headings, minor and petty, under the Irrigation Regulation. Their repair and restoration was an absolute necessity in the interests of paddy cultivation. It was, no doubt, admitted that the formation of District Boards and Village Panchayats would go a long way towards the solution of the irrigation problem, as the obligation of restoring, repairing and maintaining the irrigation works and the duty of distributing water would be entrusted to them. In the meanwhile an Irrigation Board might be constituted with a few non-officials and the Director of Agriculture, the local Executive Engineer and the Peishkar as members to tackle the problem. In bringing his observations to a close, the Member suggested that a thorough investigation might be made and a well thought-out and carefully planned scheme be prepared for affording the full measure of relief to the ryots.

The Member also urged the necessity of repairing or constructing the following roads:—

(1) from Vettikat to Muttathura, recommended by the Trivandrum Municipal Council;

(2) from Vanchiyur School to the Sanskrit College;

(3) from Kythamukku to Kanjiravilagam temple and thence through Anayara and Kolathur as far as Kazhakkuttam;

(4) from Valiathura to Sankumukham at the beach;

(5) from Kazhakkuttam temple to the beach through the Arat road;

(6) from Kazhakkuttam temple eastwards one-fourth of a mile, to the spring largely resorted to by the people for bathing and other purposes.

Dewan's reply.—The suggestions of the Member will be considered.

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